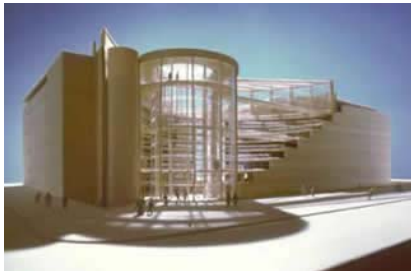


HHS Comes Up with \$1 Million for New National Health Museum

Yesterday, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson announced a \$1 million grant “as part of partnership with National Health Museum.” The funding, his press release noted, will come in equal parts from the CDC, FDA, NIH, and HRSA. <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2003pres/20031007.html>



According to its website, The National Health Museum has concluded that the soon-to-be-vacated FDA site at 2nd and C Streets, SW, Washington, D.C. “offers an ideal location.” This federally owned site, which is a 90,114 square-foot plot, is located directly behind HHS, and next to the Ford House Office Building.

The Goals of the National Health Museum:

“The National Health Museum will educate, engage and inspire people to understand the past, present and future of health and health science and empower them to act upon that information to enhance their individual, family and community health.” The Goals of the Museum are as follows:

- “To educate people, young and old, about the wonders of the human body and the world of health science;
- “To motivate people to learn more about their health needs and make positive lifestyle changes that will benefit their health and the health of their families;
- “To inspire people, especially youth, to pursue careers in health by exploring the growing opportunities and new horizons in health;
- “To promote appreciation of our nation’s health science and medical heritage;
- “To serve as an independent and unbiased center of dialogue about health issues.” (www.nationalhealthmuseum.org)

National Health Curriculum?:

According to letters from former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, through this new National Health Museum there are plans to design and distribute a K-12 national “health” curriculum for use in every school across America.

Hillary Clinton Applauded the Health Museum Concept in 1998:

In 1998, Hillary Rodham Clinton attended an event to celebrate this museum and highlight the “Museum's future impact on children's health” as well as its focus on “promoting healthy lifestyles for all” (PRNewswire 3/18/98).

Planned Parenthood President-Emeritus on Original Museum Board:

One of the original board of trustees for the National Health Museum was Pamela Maraldo, the former President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She is no longer listed as a board member.

Sex-ed/ School Clinic Promoters Donate:

In December of 1999, the Museum announced a \$400,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a Foundation that is one of the main backers for controversial school-based health clinics.

Remember Enola Gay Smithsonian Controversy?

There was a national controversy over the wording of the Enola Gay (the plane that dropped the first atomic bomb) display at the Smithsonian.

How will a National Health Museum deal with such controversial health topics such as: *Roe v. Wade*, RU-486, the morning-after pill, prescription drugs, HIV/AIDS issues, sex education, abstinence, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.?

Privately Funded?:

According to a House Committee report in 2000, "Museum officials estimate that a \$133 million capital cost and a \$100 million endowment will be needed for the museum and will be raised through a combination of sources including corporations, associations, foundations and the government. The operating budget for this museum is intended to be funded from revenues, fees, memberships, sponsorships and endowment income." When the Holocaust Museum was first approved, Congress similarly was told it would be privately funded. Today, taxpayers provide approximately \$26 million per year for the Museum.

Legislative History:

In 1997, Rep. John Porter (R-IL) and Senator Specter (R-PA) slipped a provision into the FY98 Labor/HHS Appropriations conference report (P.L. 105-78) to allocate an unspecified tract of land "on or near the Mall" of Washington, DC for a Federal Health Museum and \$500,000 for a commission to study the Health Museum's plan.

This provision made it into many newsletters and newspapers as congressional "pork" and the *Wall Street Journal* ran an editorial (10/30/97) blasting the Republican Congress for yet another spending program.

In 2000, Rep. Bob Franks (R-NJ) introduced legislation (H.R. 3171) to allow the federal health museum first shot at any parcel of federally owned land in D.C. The museum would have paid "fair market value" for the land, but H.R. 3171 would have given this particular museum priority over a free and fair market bidding process for the land in question. This bill also required the National Museum to establish a satellite museum in Ellis Island, New Jersey, in the district of Rep. Menendez. The bill was reported to the full House but not considered in the 106th Congress.

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